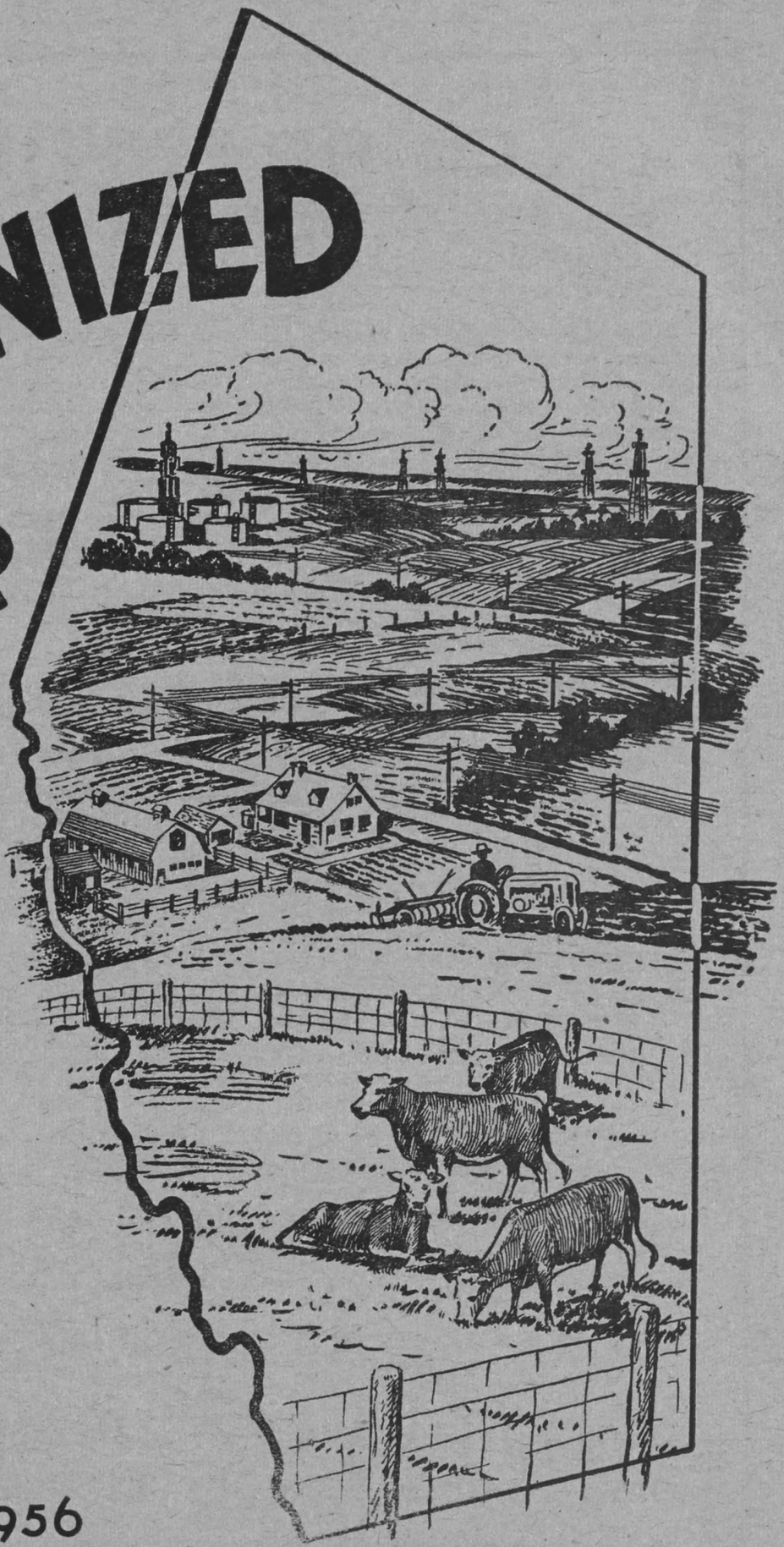
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THE ORGANIZED FARMER



Herein:

FUA Set-up In District No. 4
By Fritz Wuth
Page 21

Game Act — What Happened
By A. W. Platt
Page 6

Red Deer Local's Golden Jubilee
By Charlie Schille
Page 15

Farming War Veterans
By R. E. G. Armstrong
Page 11

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President's Report

We are having a little better weather. It looks like spring is really going to come at last. Certainly it will never be more welcome than it is this year. Farm people have taken the brunt of one of the worst winters on record. We hear stories of hardship, of difficulties overcome and of neighbor helping neighbor, every day. These stories show that farm people are the same self-reliant, neighborly individuals that their fathers and mothers were.

With the coming of spring, a new spirit of optimism arises in all of us. We can't help but feel that in spite of dark clouds on the horizon, that somehow this is going to be a better year than those that have gone before. That spirit of hope and optimism that reaches it's peak at this time of year is probably what keeps most of us in the farming game and sets us apart from our fellow citizens in the business world.

There are grounds for optimism. The grain marketing situation has improved greatly. As late as the end of January it appeared we would not be able to deliver more than five bushels per specified acre whereas it now appears we might exceed last year's deliveries of eight bushels per acre. A lot will depend on how effectively our transportation and handling facilities can do the job that lies ahead of them in the next few months. However, grain prices have not improved and I see nothing to suggest that they will improve in the near future. Many of our farmers are going to have difficulty showing a profit on average yields at present prices. There is unlikely to be any substantial upward trend in prices until present surpluses are disposed of.

Livestock markets have been very discouraging; beef prices have followed hogs on the downward trend. Experts in this field predict that prices will improve to some extent as the season advances but there may be further declines for a short period if there are heavy deliveries when the road bans go off. It would seem to me that the time has come to have another look at our livestock marketing machinery. Surely we can devise something that will help stabilize this important phase of our agricultural economy. We are now consuming on the domestic market practically all the livestock we produce and I can see no reason why livestock prices should go to ruinous levels

(Continued on Page 5)

Monthly Letter from

Alberta Livestock Co-operative Limited

Dear Friends:

Do you ever attend meetings of farm organizations? If so, what kind of meetings and now many times a year?

The thing that makes us bring that question up in this issue is that the writer has had the privilege of attending a fairly large number of meetings of F.U.A. locals and also Annual Meetings of some of our A.L.C. affiliated Co-operative shipping associations during the past month.

All those meetings were well handled; those in attendance were very much interested in the farmers' problems, mainly because they are farmers and are livestock producers and feeders.

However, there was, in our opinion, one serious drawback. That drawback was the consistently meagre attendance. Attendance at these meetings would not exceed 5 to 10 percent of the membership.

Now, all farmers know that they have problems of their own, problems that apply to them as individuals. Perhaps a machine breaks down, maybe he has a sick cow or, as has been the case in many instances, water supply is not what it should be. Those, however, are problems that are part and parcel of the business of production. Similar problems are incidental to all phases of industry though they may differ in kind. Those are personal or business problems.

But what about the larger picture? Every time we visit with a farmer, we run into the argument that he's not getting his share of the national income, that his costs have gone sky-high and that his revenue has dropped. And who's going to argue against that? It's true, and is being proved officially day after day.

And what's the farmer doing about it? Just about nothing. He's letting the 5 to 10% that are interested enough to attend his meetings carry the load. We know that meetings are tiresome affairs for a person who is accustomed to action; there is an endless discussion and repetition — persistent people will talk on a subject time and time again while the majority just sit and listen. So, after a while, the non-speakers just give up and refuse to be implicated in any part of it, forgetting that without broad interest the few are severely handicapped.

In our opinion, before the farmer can start to improve his position he's first going to have to take a much wider interest in the problems that affect his entire operation from a district, provincial and national viewpoint. He's just not going to get that done by staying away from the people that do try to make improvements and he's not going to help anything by ignoring or criticizing those people and organizations.

As an instance, suppose we take a look at the livestock marketing position. There's plenty of talk about it but how many farmers know that more than half of the provincial commercial truckers are being paid a bonus by processor for delivering hogs to their plants or buying stations? Shouldn't that extra money be added to the price the farmer receives for his hogs? Is there any excuse for that kind of a deal? And who is responsible for it? The processor wants a regular supply of raw material; the trucker gets what he can, when he can. The farmer condones it and if that doesn't make him appear just a little on the stupid order we'll put in with you.

But that one instance is just a sample of what is being done and illustrates what is happening through neglect and indifference to major issues. The farmer has protection in his co-operative shipping associations and his selling agencies on the public markets. He has organization through his union. He lets them fall by the wayside; he doesn't like present conditions. He should wake up and try do do something about it. What do you think?

Sincerely yours

GEO. WINKELAAR,
General Manager.

ALBERTA LIVESTOCK CO-OPERATIVE LIMITED.

(Advertisement)

PRESIDENT'S REPORT . . .

(Continued from Page 3)

during a period of general prosperity. I am hoping our locals are doing some good thinking on this subject and that we can formulate a really sound marketing policy at aur next convention.

I had the opportunity of attending a fine series of meetings in District No. 4. One could not help being impressed with the ability of district and local officials. They knew what they were doing and they knew how to do it. It is a stimulating experience which I thoroughly enjoyed except for the two days I spent clearing roads to get back to Edmonton.

I also had the opportunity to attend the conference of District No. 8 at Dayland and a leadership course in District No. 5 at Onoway. We are getting fine co-operation from the Extension Services of the university in this work and our members appreciate it. In my view, this training of our leaders, and potential leaders, is one of our most important jobs and I am impressed with the job that is being done. This program is still in a state of flux and no doubt we can make improvements. Your directors are going to make a careful evaluation of what we are doing. I know they would appreciate the members' views.

At a labor institute held in Edmonton, I had the opportunity to present farm union views to a group studying farmer-labor relations. They were a keen group and discussed our common ground and our differences in a very able manner.

During the month, some time has been available to get together information on a number of matters which we will be taking up shortly with federal officials. A brief is being prepared by the Saskatchewan Farmers Union and concurred in by us to be presented before the Banking and Commerce Committee of the House of Commons, on farm credit. Several other briefs are in the course of preparation.

One of the high-lights of the past month was the meeting at Red Deer to celebrate the local's fifty consecutive years of farm organization. It was a stimulating experience to hear the local old-timers tell the story of the Red Deer Local and to examine the old minute book and other mementos. The farmers' union can be justly proud of the work this fine group of farmers has done for their community, their province and their nation. It is wise at times to look back over the road we have travelled and assess the progress made; not to linger by the wayside or grow complacent with past triumphs, but to chart a forward course on the basis of past experience and go forward more resolutely than ever. That is what our members at Red Deer are doing.

ACROSS THE SECRETARY'S DESK

By Mrs. Pansy Molen

Farm Young People's Week will this year be held from June 5 - 14 at the University of Alberta, Edmonton. Any farm boy or girl between 16 and 27 is welcome to attend. They may come at their own expense ($28 plus transportation and a few extra dollars for pocket money), or boys and girls may come as delegates sponsored by FUA locals and districts, by FWUA or Junior locals, by the Wheat Pool or some other organization of this type.

One day of this week, Monday, June 11, has been set aside for the annual meeting of the Junior FUA. All young people at the gathering will be invited to attend this meeting, but only FUA junior members will be eligible to take part in the voting and election of officials. The president, executive members and directors of the FUA's junior section will be elected at this time.

Programs and registration forms have been mailed to all local secretaries. Additional forms are available at central office or at the university department of extension.

This is a wonderful course for farm young people and we hope that all locals will try to send someone from their district.

Our junior organization has invited two delegates from Ontario and two from Saskatchewan to attend Farm Young People's Week. The Ontario delegates will be taken on a tour of the province for one week following their stay at the university.

DISTRICT CONVENTIONS

Plans are now complete for holding district conventions in all FUA districts, commencing with District No. 1 on June 14.

We want to stress the importance of every local being represented at their district convention. This is the clearing house for the ideas of the membership as expressed through resolutions sent from locals. Each local is entitled to send one delegate for every 10 members or major portion thereof. Visitors are welcome but cannot vote. Be sure to send all resolutions you wish discussed at these conventions to your district secretary.

Dates and Places

District 1—June 14, Grande Prairie
District 2—June 16, Peace River
District 3—July 7, Westlock
District 4—July 5, St. Paul
District 5—June 27, Evansburg
District 6—July 6, Vegreville or Lamont
District 7—July 4, Vermilion
District 8—June 30, Forestburg
District 9—June 28, Ponoka
District 10—June 29, Olds
District 11—June 19, Hanna
District 2—June 22, High River
District 13—June 20, Brooks
District 14—June 21, Lethbridge

The New Game Act

After considerable debate shortly before prorogation, the second session of the Thirteenth Alberta Legislature came up with some major changes in the provincial game act. Various provisions of the amended act, as they affect the farmers and ranchers are briefly referred to below:

Hunters will henceforth be required to seek permission before entering upon occupied lands. Reference terms to this clause define "occupied lands" as privately owned lands under cultivation or enclosed by a fence of any kind and upon which or adjoining which the owner or occupant is actually residing.

On inquiry from the F.U.A. central office, an official of the administrating department's game branch clarified interpretation of "adjoining lands" as used in the regulation. In order for lands to be considered adjoining — they may have a road or road allowance separating them — evidence must indicate that the separate parcels form part of one farm unit. Parallel gates on the two sides, close to a farmyard, would present such evidence. Evident traffic of livestock or machinery to a piece of land immediately across from a farmstead would also suffice.

Notwithstanding the foregoing provisions, any person may enter upon occupied or other lands for the purpose of pursuing wounded game.

If an owner or occupant of land posts "No Shooting" or "No Hunting" signs of the proper type and at specified locations on his land, this means that neither he or anyone else will be allowed to hunt on such land while it is posted.

The new regulations provide no power whatever for farmers to restrict hunting on crown lands, such as tracts leased for grazing. A lease holder is prohibited from posting such lands against hunting under any circumstances.

It appears that little protection exists for farmers under the trespassing clause of Canada's criminal code, where land is not posted against hunting and thus falls generally outside the jurisdiction of the provincial game act. A trespassing breach constitutes willful damage done on another's property. In order for a farmer to invoke this power, he would first have to show that damage was done and have been witness to it, and then he would need to identify the party or parties responsible.

On the other hand, the game act provides fairly stiff punishment for hunters refusing to leave occupied land when requested to do so by the owner or occupant. This applies only in cases where the hunter has needed permission to enter upon land or is there by virtue of the land being posted as "Hunting Allowed". If a hunter refuses to leave when asked to do so, he is liable on summary conviction to a fine not less than $25 and not over $100, or in default to payment, to one month's imprisonment.

Game Act Admendments -- What Happened

By A. W. Platt

In order to clear up misconceptions in regard to our negotiations with the provincial government on amendments to the Game Act, the following is a brief history of what took place.

During February, 1955, a delegation from the Farmers' Union met with the then minister of lands and forests, and with delegations from other farm groups and Fish and Game Association. A series of proposed amendments were agreed to by all concerned. The report of our delegation was later approved by our board. These proposed amendments were as follows:

"No person shall hunt or take big game or game birds on land owned or leased and enclosed by a fence or land under cultivation, or enter upon the land without consent of the owner or occupant of said land, if the owner or occupant resides upon said land with the following provisions:

(a) That access be provided and given at all times to hunters in the pursuit of wounded game birds and game animals.

(b) That farmers not wishing to take advantage of this regulation shall:

1. Erecet "No Hunting" signs whereby no one may hunt or shoot any time while so posted, including occupants.

2. Place, or give his consent to the placing of "Hunting Approved" signs whereby hunters would not be required to obtain permission to hunt and farmers would not be bothered giving permission.

Land on which a farmer resides shall mean all lands in one adjacent block operated as a unit upon which the residence is situated."

The government took no action on these proposals.

Following the last annual convention, your ex-

ecutive placed your resolution, requesting that no hunter be permitted to hunt without permission of the owner of the land concerned unless the owner posted his land with hunting permitted signs, before the provincial cabinet. The same resolution was put before the A.F.A. and it was approved by them and they also placed it before the cabinet. Representations were also made to all members of the legislature in regard to resolution and personally to the minister concerned. We were assured by the minister that amendments would be introduced into the house and we understood that we would be permitted to make representations at that time if we so desired.

Late in the session an amended game act was introduced that was entirely satisfactory to us. We informed the government that we were well satisfied with it. When the bill came up for second reading certain sections of vital importance to us were reserved for further consideration. We again made our stand clear to the minister concerned and called to the attention of all our directors that changes in the originally introduced act were contemplated. The minister then introduced the compromise agreement reached the year before and this was passed by the legislature at the same session it was introduced. Hence, we had no opportunity to make any representations on it.

At no time since February 1955 have we discussed this matter with the Fish and Game Association.

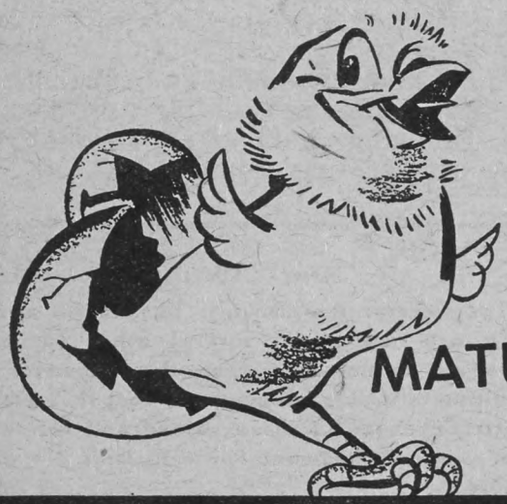
The act as finally passed, goes a long way toward meeting our requests. Certain sections are subject to abuse and perhaps not well worded. Further changes will be necessary. Just recently it was encouraging to have the provincial president of the Fish and Game Association call on all hunters to observe the spirit of the new act, especially in regard to the pursuit of wounded game.

DRY COUNTRY

Travelling through south-eastern Alberta during the dry 'thirties, a northern farmer left his car on the road and walked across a sun-baked field to speak to a farmer doing some late sowing.

"Doesn't it ever rain around here?" the visitor wanted to know.

"Well," considered the southerner, "'bout two weeks ago I heard they had a good shower some 25 miles nor'west of here but I was busy and couldn't go."



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EDITORIALS

ORGANIZATION

In any organization, certain individuals are chosen to do a specific job in order that it may accomplish the things that it was set up to do. Even a simple committee must have a chairman and secretary, each of which has well-defined duties. As organizations become larger and more complex, more people are required to do a greater variety of tasks. Through time, as an organization grows and develops, new responsibilities must be assigned and old positions re-evaluated. To a great extent the success or failure of an organization depends on how well the individuals assigned to a position understand exactly their duties and responsibilities.

In recent years the farmers' union has placed greater and greater responsibility on district sub-directors, until now they have become very important officials in our organization. Another group of officials, namely our local executive members, have had, in many cases, no specific responsibilities and hence have contributed little to our organization. Both of these groups need direction and assistance. I commend to them and to all officials and members an article in this issue by the director of District No. 4. I think you will agree that he has put forth some excellent ideas which are actually being used in his district.—A.W.P.

NATURE'S QUIRK

The second session of the United Nations-sponsored wheat conference is convening this month in London, England, after failing to reach agreement in earlier negotiation at Geneva, Switzerland. Their deliberations will have profound effect on farmers of Western Canada, who are just now getting ready to swing into another growing season. What are the chances of success at this second session?

In a sense, nature has taken a hand in strengthening the bargaining power of the exporting nations, among whom Canada is a major one. Abnormally cold weather, snow and floods have combined to destroy or damage millions of acres of European winter wheat crop. Our sympathy is certainly with the farmers of those countries, but the hard core of this development is that larger quantities of cereal grain will have to be imported to make up the loss. Notwithstanding such an outcome, the importing nations can look for a return to normal conditions in subsequent years and therefore will be reluctant to enter a new agreement with price and quantities excessively influenced by their current predicament. Nevertheless, the situation is bound to have a bearing on negotiations at this time and Alberta farmers will be among those following proceedings of the conference with keenest interest.

Should a new agreement be forthcoming, our greatest concern even as in the past few years, will be in having grain in exportable position to meet accelerating demand.—C.C.S.

NEW COVER

The Organized Farmer is this month sporting a new cover and several other changes. While we do not look upon these changes as the ultimate in improvement, we feel that greater attractiveness has been gained and will welcome readers' comments or criticisms. — The Editors

EXPIRY NOTICES

Over the past couple of weeks, our mailing room staff has been sending out hundreds of expiry notices. A number of subscribers have returned these notices with their renewal remittances, but failed to list their name and address. This makes it impossible for the staff to enter such renewals. We are anxious that no one misses his copy, so please keep the renewals flowing in, listing, of course, the name and full address. — The Secretary

STALIN'S DENUNCIATION

Rumblings of disquiet have come from the inner sanctum of the Kremlin from time to time, but never has anything as spectacular as the recent denunciation of the "infallible" Stalin seeped through to the outside world. The unbridled castigation of the dead Russian hero has given rise to a new wave of speculation among government and diplomatic circles in the Western World.

What prompted this dethroning of the "people's liberator" and idol and what are liable to be the consequences? Is it a sign that the military clique so long holding sway behind the Iron Curtain is relenting in its continuous drive to subject its lesser citizens, and thereby gain added prestige in the eyes of all; or, does it portend that a passively rebellious faction inside the older Red hierarchy is now moving to make Communist rule less military and less brutal than it had been stamped under Stalin and his immediate successor? These and many more are the conjectures being raised.

The new Communist Party chieftan, Nikita Krushchev, is reputedly of Ukrainian origin. It is no secret that for generations people of the Ukraine have been viciously persecuted and for the past few decades have been ground under the heel of the Soviet Giant. Could it be possible that one of their own countrymen — thoroughly indoctrinated as he must be in the Communist axiom of human enslavery for the power and glory of the state — is hearkening to his race's age-old struggle for greater freedom and peace ?

Odds in favor of the latter conjecture appear small indeed, but the idea may nevertheless be worth watching for in the new line of Soviet strategy.—C.C.S.

MELODRAMA

After a few words, mostly spoken by the young wife, her husband sprang to his feet.

"You've gone too far!" he exclaimed angrily. "This is our last quarrel. I'm going right out of your life."

"Oh, Henry darling, where are you going?" she cried.

"Where I'll never trouble you again," he replied, as he started to open the door. "I'll find a place where wild adventure will wipe out the memories of this moment — perhaps in the jungle—or on the stormy seas . . ."

As he spoke he opened the door, then closed it again, and turned sternly to his wife. "It's lucky for you that it's raining," he said.

Need of Organization

By W. G. Logan

F.U.A. workers in the field and speakers on the road have come through another period of organizational activities during the winter months which was certainly not under the best of working conditions nor with the best results in memberships.

Membership is the lifeblood of our union or any other similar organization. Without its support and financial assistance (membership dues) it will not survive, nor will the efforts of its leadership be very effective. The union's achievements have brought many benefits to its members these past years, and much more can be accomplished provided it has sufficient support.

Too often we hear farmers claim that the union has done nothing for them. How about these same individuals—what have they done to help the union? When a person takes up a homestead, after paying the filing fee, does he sit down and wait for the crop? No. More work and money have to be expended before any results are forthcoming. The same applies to the union. A member in today and out tomorrow adds nothing except the fee he paid. The backbone of the organization is the true and loyal members who have stayed with the battle year after year, never grumbling, always looking forward to better days.

We know farm prices are dropping, costs are on the increase. What are we doing about it? Thirty-seven thousand loyal members are in, putting up a brave front to protect the farming business. The others, who are in the majority, cannot be counted on as being of much help. Is it a foregone conclusion that any farmer refusing to join the union is opposed to its objectives and its policy for putting them into effect?

UPPITY

A livestock dealer, looking for some good breeding stock for one of his customers, was directed to a farmer's yard. On being shown the herd, the buyer set his eye on a fancy young bull but could not agree to the farmer's price.

"Your price seems a little high," he remarked, "is the bull pedigreed?"

"Is he pedigreed?" snorted the farmer. "Mister, if this bull could talk he wouldn't even speak to you!"

FOR SALE

Three-quarter-section mixed farm in Craigend district. New home, ½ mile off new highway, 1 mile to post office and schools, 15 miles to Lac La Biche. Owner retiring due to ill health.

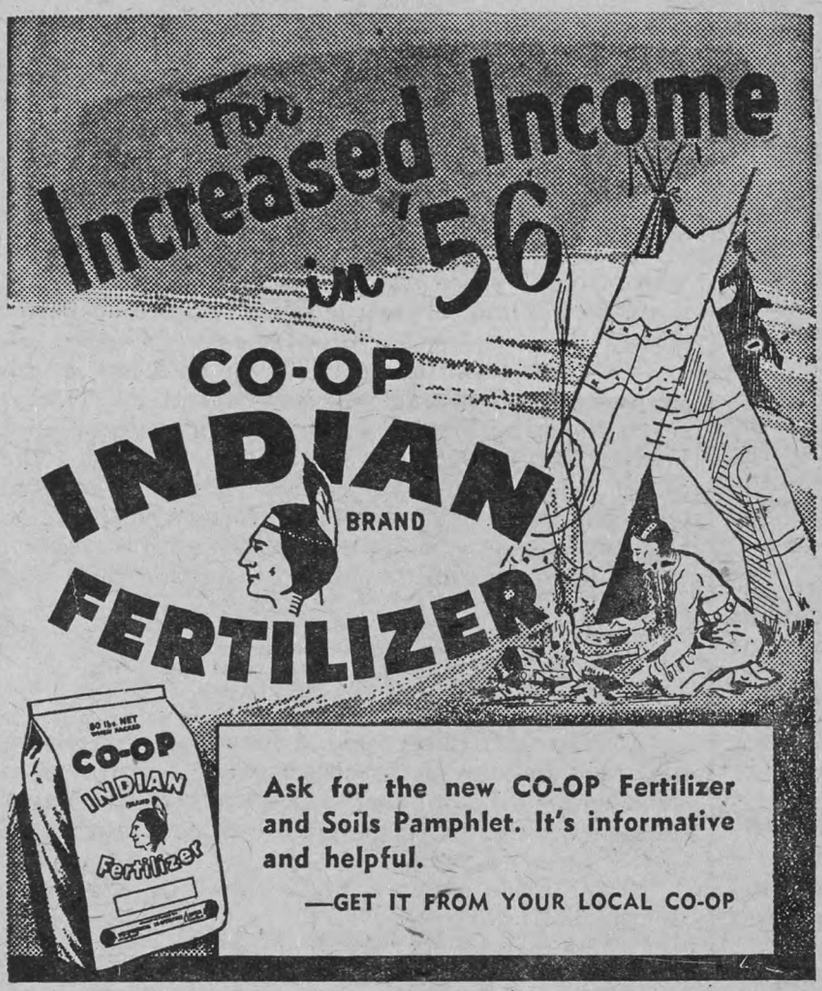
Apply to: Edmund Gervais, Craigend, Alta.



Co-ops Aid Research

To further research in chemical fertilizers at the University of Alberta, Interprovincial Co-operatives Ltd. recently presented a $500-cheque to university officials in Edmonton. Shown at the presentation ceremonies are, left to right: Dr. J. D. Newton and Dr. F. C. Bentley, University of Alberta; Ralph Miner and Jim Bell of Edmonton, who made the presentation on behalf of the co-operative organization. Mr. Miner and Mr. Bell are top officials of the feed, flour and fertilizer section of Alberta Co-operative Wholesale Association.

—Photo by Pat Ryan



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Stubble Crops Need Added Nitrogen

Where heavy stands of straw are cultivated into the soil there is often a lowing of crop yields, for not only do these fields have to supply the crop with nitrogen it needs but must provide an extra supply to enable bacteria to decompose the straw. Where there is nitrogen deficiency, nitrogen fertilizers show some promise but have not yet proved so widely satisfactory that they can be generally recommended, says Dr. C. F. Bentley, associate professor of soils at the University of Alberta.

In tests conducted by the university, about one-third to one-half of the fields on which nitrogen has been applied have actually given paying increases. He recommends that those who observe a nitrogen deficiency should try a nitrogen fertilizer on part of the field and compare the results with areas where no nitrogen has been applied.

The deficiency shows up as pale, yellow-green spindly plants and poor yields. However, by the time these signs appear around the middle of June to the middle of July, it is too late to do anything for that year. The nitrogen should be applied in fall or spring at a rate of 40-60 pounds per acre.

Free Advice

"Three years ago my husband went out to get some meat sauce and I haven't seen him since", wailed the long-married wife. "What am I to do?"

Helpful Friend: "Why don't you try ketchup?"

Books On Organizational Subjects

Does your local need ideas for meetings and entertainment projects? Most locals find it difficult to organize their meetings on a planned program basis and have often inquired at central office for informational material. Central office has a small amount of material on hand dealing with specific topics, but a broad selection can be had from the extension library on the campus of the University of Alberta. Obtainable on loan are books dealing with numerous aspects of club organization and management. There is no charge other than postage and books may be kept for periods up to one month. Inquiries should be addressed to: Extension Library, University of Alberta, Edmonton.

The following is a list of books available:

Avery, H. M. and Nye, F. W.—The clubwoman's book. 1954. (Advice on all women's club activities).

Bailard, Virginia and McKown, H. C.—So you were elected! 1946. (A book for young people about clubs and meetings).

Brown, A. C. and Geis, S. B.—Handbook for group leaders. 1952.

Simmons, Harry—How to run a club; a complete handbook for club members. 1955. (Organizing and running the club; handling and publicizing the meetings; building the club).

Trecker, A. R. and Trecker, H. B.—Committee common sense. 1954. How to work with groups; 1952—Guidance for people with responsibility in clubs and other groups).

CONDUCT OF MEETINGS

Frisby,, W. G.—The conduct of a meeting. 1938. (In brief form, all the rules for business meetings).

Jones, O. G.—Parliamentary procedure at a glance; group leadership for chairmanship and floor leadership. 1949.

PROGRAMS

Duran, C. A.—The program encyclopedia. 1955. (More than 5000 ideas for all kinds of programs).

PUBLIC SPEAKING

Butler, J. H.—Time to speak up; a speaker's handbook for women. 1952.

Wright, C. W.—How to speak in public. 1943.

Wright, C. W.—Better speeches for all occasions. 1948.

RECREATION

Harbin, E. O.—Fun encyclopedia; a comprehensive, all purpose, entertainment plan book for the home, club, school, church and playground. 1940.

Meyer, H. D.-Brightbill, C. K.—Community recreation; a guide to its organization and administration. 1948.

Tracey, J. L.—Fun incorporated; the handbook for teen centers. 1946.

TWO USEFUL PERIODICALS

Food for Thought. Published by the Canadian Association for Adult Education.

Adult Leadership. Published by the Adult Education Association of the U. S. A.

Soldiers of the Soil

(Editor's Note: This new column of the The Organized Farmer will be conducted by R. E. G. Armstrong, president of the F.U.A. War Veterans' Section. Mr. Armstrong would appreciate suggestions as to the type of material in which veterans and perhaps readers generally would be most interested).

EX-MILITARY FARMERS

Since the end of the war, a fairly large number of ex-servicemen have gone farming. In the majority of cases, they were able to get started on their own because of federal government aid through the Veterans Land Act administration. Due to greatly changed farm conditions over the past few years, the grants available at the beginning were later found to be inadequate. Some ex-military farmers may therefor be interested to learn details of further financial aid that can be secured.

In addition to the first loan of $4,800 and equipment grant of $1,200, there is now a supplemental grant of $3,000 available from the Veterans Land Act.

The interest rate on this additiinal loan is five per cent and the veteran is required to put up one-third of the principal. In other words, if the veteran is to receive the $3,000 loan, he will have to put up $1,000. If the veteran has made improvements of $1,000 or more on his VLA property, this will be accepted instead of cash.

For servicemen set up on "small holdings", the additional loan limit is $1,400, with the applicant being required to match half the amount.

The preceding is briefly the story of this part of the 1954 amendment to the Veterans Land Act.

If readers should be interested in any of the foregoing, I would suggest that they get in touch with their nearest VLA representative. Any information you may have to contribute or any you wish to request dealing with farming veterans, please write me at Parkland, Alberta.

Farm Women's Union of Alberta

F.W.U.A. PRESIDENT REPORTS

By Mrs. C. T. Armstrong

SEMINAR AT BANFF

The Alcoholism Foundation of Alberta met in Banff School of Fine Arts. Speakers from Yale Centre on Alcoholic Studies, from Alcoholic Research Foundation of Ontario and from industrial concerns made a very interesting program. Our foundation here in Alberta is doing good work and operates two clinics. If you desire any information or help, you can visit or write to 9910 - 103 Street, Edmonton or 737 - 13 Avenue West, Calgary.

COMIC BOOKS

The Committee on Comic Books has compiled a booklet on objectionable comic books and the ratings of these. We have a limited number and are sending one to each F.W.U.A. director. If you are interested, you may write to head office for a copy.

ALBERTA COUNCIL ON CHILD AND FAMILY WELFARE

As usual the annual meeting of the council took place during Easter week. The F.W.U.A. and other provincial organizations participated on Friday. As your president, I presided at the meeting. Judge McKeen spoke on family courts. Later in the afternoon, I spoke over CFCN on "As a Farm Woman Sees it." At the evening session I brought greetings to the other 54 member organizations on your behalf. Mrs. Douglass and Mrs. Barker attended these meetings also.

COOK BOOKS

Work is going ahead to prepare our new cook book. The committee has been very thorough in trying to give an up-to-date edition, so I hope you will be patient until we get the first printing about June 1.

F.W.U.A Hi-Lights

In answer to query by Inland FWUA No. 615 (Vegreville) as to why local hi-lights are not always reported in the paper—it is not possible (there are a great number of hi-lights coming in each month) except to report on items of interest to the organization as a whole. Items of only local interest cannot be reported as space in the paper does not permit.

* * * *

The Baintree FWUA No. 1001 have undertaken to send coloring books and crayons to young Walter Keeler, who has just returned from hospital, having been very seriously injured when caught in the power take-off on the tractor. (The danger of the power take-off to children and operators of these machines is not stressed enough, but it is very great).

* * * *

At the March meeting of Park Grove FWUA No. 609, a letter from the C.N.I.B. asking for support of "A Pension Without Means Test" was read, and it was decided by the Local to support it.

* * * *

Asker FWUA No. 902 (Ponoka) have gone on record as being definitely opposed to any form of compulsory membership. They feel that a program of education to obtain membership would be much more desirable.

* * * *

Support for a fund-raising drive for Mental Health education has been undertaken by Crown FWUA No. 919 (Morningside).

* * * *

Brooks FWUA No. 1302 also go on record as opposing compulsory membership.

* * * *

Edwell FWUA No. 1019 expect to have Mrs. Ray Carter speak to their May meeting on "Aims and Accomplishments of the F.W.U.A.".

* * * *

Horn Hill FWUA (Red Deer) have made a recommendation that District No. 10 provide a suitable award to the Indian girl who takes first place in Household Economics at the Olds School of Agriculture for the 10 week short course beginning in April.

Beauty Parlor Sign

"Many a batchelor ship has been wrecked on our permanent waves."

* * *

An egotist is one who likes to be me-deep in conversation.

Handicraft List For The F.W.U.A. Convention 1956

Class 1: Sewing — 3 only

(a) Garment with smocking
(b) Practical housedress
(c) Child's garment remade from used wool or similar material
(d) Girl's best dress or ladies afternoon dress (size 12 or over). Any material
(c) Child's garment remade from used wool
(f) Pyjamas (6 years and over)
(g) Sport shirt — short sleeves
(h) Jacket, blazer or coat (16 years and under) lined or half lined
(i) Lady's or girl's winter skirt
(J) Doll's wardrobe

Class 2: Knitting — 2 only

(a) Man's or boy's cardigan — heavy weight
(b) Woman's or girl's cardigan — light weight
(c) Adult or child's Siwash sweater
(d) Socks — plain color fancy stitch
(e) Socks — any pattern, 2 or more colors
(f) Shrug, fringed shawl or stole
(g) Mitts — any age, any design
(h) Child's dress or suit — 2 to 5 years
(i) Infant's garments — 2 articles
(j) Knitted lace — edging, doily or any article (fine thread No. 30 - 60)

Class 3: Crochet and Tatting — 2 only

(a) Dinner cloth 54" or more — all lace not coarser than size 20 thread
(b) Crochet edging or trim
(c) Tatted edge
(d) Tatted article
(e) Crochet purse or hat-straw or other thread
(f) Crochet inserts on linen, not corners
(g) Crochet edge on 2 handkerchiefs
(h) Crochet doily or tray cloth, thread not coarser than 30

Class 4: Embroidery and Textile Painting — 2 only

(a) Embroidery in white
(b) Embroidery in color
(c) Embroidery in cutwork
(d) Embroidery in cross stitch — not framed
(e) Textile Painting — any article using textile paint and brush

Class 5 Rug — 1 only

(a) Hooked rug — new material
(b) Hooked rug — salvage material
(c) Braided rug
(d) Any other variety — new material
(e) Any other variety — old material

Class 6: Loom Weaving — 1 only

(a) Small article e.g. bag, cushion cover, scarf, or runner
(b) Large article, e.g. bedspread, drapery, fabric length, rug, etc.

Class 7: Quilt — 1 only

(a) Quilt, patchwork — hand quilted
(b) Quilt, appliqued — hand quilted
(c) Cotton crib cover — hand quilted, washable type padding

Class 8: Leathercraft and Copper Work — 2 only

(a) Leather purse—not tooled or carved
(b) Tooled article
(c) Carved article
(d) Gloves
(e) Copper tooled article — e.g. framed picture, planter, lamp stand, tray etc.

Class 9: Flour or sugar sacks — 1 only (sacks could be dyed)

(a) Child's garment
(b) Apron
(c) Any other useful article

Class 10: Needlepoint, Petitpoint — 1 only

(a) Needlepoint — not mounted
(b) Petitpoint — not mounted

Class 11: Painting — 1 only

(a) Framed, painted in oils
(b) Framed, painted in water colors
(c) Framed picture silk or wool, not needlepoint or petitpoint, could be cross-stitch and outline stitch could be used

Class 12: Other Handiwork — 1 only

(a) Cushion cover
(b) Stuffed toy
(c) Basketry — any article
(d) Machine embroidery — any article
(e) Machine quilting — any article
(f) Felt article
(g) Lamp shade

INSTRUCTIONS:

1. Any local may exhibit 6 articles or less from any of the 12 classes listed.
2. No prize winning exhibit from a previous F.W.U.A. exhibit may be entered in 1956.
3. One only means that **only one article** may be exhibited from that whole class.
4. Points for large articles such as rugs, quilts, crochet table cloth and large woven articles will be 10 for first, 7 for second and 4 for third. Points for other articles 5, 3 and 1. A modified Danish system of judging will be used allowing the judge to award more than one article in a placing and/or award a higher or lower number of points according to quality of workmanship and design or article.
5. No fancy work is to be mounted on colored paper, mounting may be sent for articles so that they can be mounted after they are judged.
6. No work is to be mounted unless specified — e.g. framed picture in which case the entry is judged for the final effect of framing and frame.
7. Paintings on commercial number charts disqualified.
8. Tags will be sent to all F.W.U.A. locals in October — Joint locals please request tags from Central Office at this time.

ALBERTA FEDERATION OF AGRICULTURE

THE CANADIAN FEDERATION OF AGRICULTURE'S FARM CREDIT POLICY

Your Canadian Federation of Agriculture, during recent years, has given a great deal of study to the question of farm credit in Canada.

At the last Annual Meeting the policy statement in relation to credit, as prepared by special committee, was endorsed. It was, accordingly, presented to the Federal Cabinet in the annual presentation made on February 14, 1956. The essential points are summarized as follows:

1. "To lower the rate of intrest on Canadian Farm Board Loans to 3½% with assumption of administration costs by the government. Also, to increase the Canadian Farm Loan Board loan maximum to $20,000, extend the maximum term of loans to 40 years, and the percentage of appraised value on which loans may be made to 80% for loans of from $8,000 to $10,000, with this percentage decreasing by stages to the present 60% for loans of from $16,000 to $20,000.

2. "To lower the rate of interest at which Canadian Farm Improvement Loans may be made to 4½%. In view of the fact that these loans are both secured and guaranteed, this would seem to be a reasonable rate. In addition there are some other recommendations concerning farm improvement loan policy.

3. "To establish a policy for providing emergency or disaster credit on an interest-free basis where the nature and extent of a farmer's loss justifies the granting of such credit. It should be noted in this connection that the growing demand for some disaster loan legislation wes reflected again this year, in resolutions coming before the Federation's Annual Convention. Because of the fact that there is no existing credit legislation to cover emergency situations of this kind, it is a matter of the most immediate and vital importance that such legislation be provided. The extensive losses due to frost suffered by strawberry and other fruit, vegetable and flower growers in B.C. is a case in point, and the damage was sufficciently severe that U.S. coastal states, struck by the same frosts, were declared emergency disaster areas by the United States Government.

"In judging the merit of these recommendations we would draw to your attention that over a long period the farm operator has on the average showed an earning of only 3½% on his investment plus returns for his labour, management and unpaid family help less than 30% greater than hired man's wages. Accordingly to pay more than 3½% on long term capital means to most farmers that they must either further cut into their already low level of income or, as is often the case, simply not undertake investments which would greatly improve their chances of putting their farm operations on an efficient and profitable basis. The Canadian Federation of Agriculture believes that there is a very strong case, both as a matter of equity to the farmer, and as a constructive measure of national policy, for the people of Canada to absorb the costs of administration of the Canadian Farm Loan Board."

(Copies of the complete Canadian Federation of Agriculture credit policy are available, on request, from the office of the Alberta Federation of Agriculture, 507 McLeod Building, Edmonton, Alberta.)

(Advertisement)

RED DEER FARM GROUP MARKS 50th ANNIVERSARY

By Charlie Schille

RED DEER — "Be it resolved that we form a branch of the Alberta Farmers Association" was the import of a resolution adopted by some 24 farmers of the Red Deer district, meeting at a neighbor's home the eve of December 27, 1906. Now, practically 50 years later, it was night of celebration and purposeful reflection as farm people and their friends in the same district gathered at the Odd Fellows Hall on Friday, March 16, to mark the golden jubilee of continuous farm organization in their community.

Among the honored guests bringing congratulations and best wishes to the gathering were His Worship J. McAfee, mayor of the city; A. W. Platt, president of the Farmers' Union of Alberta; and S. S. Sears, Nanton, member of United Grain Growers' board of directors. On behalf of the city, Mayor McAfee presented Mr. and Mrs. Platt with an autographed set of books by author Kerry Wood. Prominent officials of the Wheat Pool and U.G.G. were also introduced.

PAYS TRIBUTE

District men organized back in 1906 as a means of getting out of the clutches of reputedly unscrupulous grain buyers, railway men and business officials who were victimizng the hapless producers, stated Terrence Oldford in paying tribute to the old-timers. The problems they attempted to solve as time went on are still largely with us today in varying degrees and forms, noted Mr. Oldford. He also noted that many of the original group's descendents were active in the present farm union local, while others who had contributed much over the years were now in other fields of work where their influence was helping community development in general.

FIRST MINUTE BOOK

Hugh Bower, whose father (James) was president of the first provincial farm organization in 1905, gave an historical sketch of conditions as they existed when the branch was formed and its activities through the years. Frustration and dejection was at the root of farmers' determination to organize, declared Mr. Bower as he quoted names, events and dates from the original minute book brought forth for the occasion. As an indication of the type of settlers who had come to the community, he observed that three men from the district were elected to high office when the two rival farm unions of 1905 amalgamated in 1909.

FIRST IN CANADA

In 1906, continued Mr. Bower, members of the branch decided to form a co-operative association and in short order began retailing staple items needed by farmers. In conjunction with this, they set up a co-operative livestock handling and selling agency, claimed to be the first of its kind in Canada. Planning even a step further, they laid the groundwork for a producers' packing plant in the town but adversity forced them to shelve those plans, where they still remain.

CHARTER MEMBERS

Included in the list of charter members as set forth by the minute book were: Joseph Cole (president); Stephen Wilson (secretary); John Carswell (one-time editor of the Red Deer News), Henry Jameson (donor of 20 acres of land for a ladies' college, since turned into a school for mentally retarded), Henry Towers, James Gummow, Wilson Brothers (two), H. J. Gaetz (after whom the city's main thoroughfare is named), H. J. Galt, J. H. Bennet, Sam Grimson, James Comer, C.J.B. Ward, C. A. Higgs, Thomas Hoskins, R. F. Pengelly, Thomas Brown, James Bower (credited with stirring the farmers into setting up the branch) and George Owen.

PRAISES RECORD

"To the best of my knowledge, no other group in Canada can do what you are doing tonight — celebrating your fiftieth anniversary," stated the guest speaker, Mr. Platt, as he addressed the large gathering. On his recent trip to Ottawa, he commented, parliamentarians were greatly impressed when informed of the Red Deer group's record. "Yours is a record to be proud of and I am deeply honored at being among you," the president declared.

The organized farmers of Alberta have accomplished much, he went on to say. They have fostered a dignity and pride in the art of farming upon which no monetary value can be placed. Concepts of social security, neighborliness, self help and fair play have been developed and fostered in the organization, influencing the political thinking of the province and the nation to a degree out of all proportion to the group's numerical strength. Within its ranks, people have received training to go forward and give leadership in the business, education and political life of Canada. No small part of these accomplishments was due to the stalwart, industrious farm women.

SHOULD LEAD

Reviewing the development of agriculture in Canada, Mr. Platt predicted that farming will decidedly not become less important in the country's economy despite the steady drop in number of those engaged therein. The trend, he continued, serves to emphasize the need for a stronger and more unified farm voice. The F.U.A., because of its prestige and history, could do well to take the lead in working out better relations in the national field. The union must decide the degree and method of contribution

to the Canadian Federation of Agriculture and the role that the Interprovincial Farm Union Council is going to play in national affairs. The success or failure of the farm organization in the national field may well depend on the leadership that Alberta may be able to give.

The guest speaker was introduced by Frank Johnson, director of F.U.A. district No. 8.

Master of ceremonies, George Braithwaite, paid special tribute to Bob Edgar, chairman of the committee in charge of the celebration, and to F.W.U.A. ladies of the district who catered and served at the bounteous buffet supper.

Community singing was led by Jim O'Toole, who later favored the audience by reading a poem composed by his father (the late Patrick O'Toole) in dedication to the farm union of years gone by.

Dancing followed presentation of the official program.

SMALL TRUCK LOAD LIMITS

It appears that confusion exists among farmers with regard to load limits on lighter type farm trucks. To clear up any possible misunderstanding, The Organized Farmer herewith reprints a clause from the Vehicles Act as it stands in the new license year:

"Two-axled vehicles of the lighter type which are designed by the manufacturer to be equipped with only single 7.50x18 or smaller tires on the rear axle are permitted a tolerance of 50% in excess of the maximum gross weight computed. . . ."

This means that a farmer with a half-ton truck, for instance, is allowed to haul a fairly heavy load. Most half-ton trucks have a gross (loaded) vehicle weight listing on the license registration of 4,800 pounds maximum. The tolerance of 50 per cent allowed under the act would boost this up to 7,200. As an illustration, supposing that a farmer's half-ton weighs 3,800 pounds empty; he will be entitled to carry loads ranging up to 3,400 pounds, with the combined vehicle and load weight thus coming to the maximum of 7,200 allowed for his particular truck (gross vehicle registration—4,800 pounds). Tires must be in first class condition for maximum load ratings if safety is to be ensured.

Under amendments to the Vehicles Act, farmers this year are paying less for their truck licenses. The reductions range from five to 10 dollars and up on all farm classifications. The farm union has been striving for some time for a reduced schedule of license fees on farm trucks and the new rates are in line with former union proposals.

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Alkali-Tolerant Crops Part Answer To Drainage Problems

(From Science and the Land)

Drainage is the final answer to the alkali problem on some of our older irrigated soils, says F. Rayment, agronomist with the forage crop section of the experimental farm at Lethbridge, but drainage is a costly and long-time process and it is not likely that it will ever take care of the entire problem.

There will always be smaller areas uneconomical to drain; areas on which an alkali tolerant crop could be used to advantage. Sugar beets and alfalfa are somewhat alkali tolerant, Mr. Rayment advises, but the acreage that can be sown to sugar beets is limited by demand and alfalfa cannot survive in areas subject to excessive flooding. Nor can the tolerance of either of these crops be considered high.

Grasses for hay or pasture are perhaps among the best possibilities for this purpose, but grasses with the required alkali tolerance are not common. Among them are tall wheatgrass, slender wheatgrass, Alta fescue and reed canary grass. Their tolerance to saline conditions is in that order, with tall wheatgrass showing the greatest degree.

In tests with these and other grasses at Lethbridge, tall wheatgrass has consistentnly shown a high tolerance to the salinity occurring in typical seepage areas, and its tolerance can be regarded as high. It is rather a coarse grass however, and makes very coarse hay. Though not extensively tested in grazing studies, indications are that it will provide fair grazing if pastured closely enough to prevent heading.

Slender wheatgrass shows a fair degree of tolerance to alkaline conditions, but in previous seedings at Lethbridge it proved rather short-lived. It is not definitely known whether this was due to the natural habit of the plant under those conditions or was the result of disease, but Mr. Rayment reports considerable success with establishment of slender wheatgrass in the present tests.

Alta fescue is a grass about which opinion differs. It is used extensively in irrigated pastures in certain parts of the United States, but while considered an excellent pasture grass by some, it is reported by others to be coarse and unpalatable. In tests here it shows moderate tolerance to salinity, and appears to be readily grazed by sheep.

Reed canary grass shows some alkali tolerance, proving somewhat better than alfalfa, but one of its outstanding advantages is its ability to thrive under flooding. Alta fescue and reed canary have this attribute in common. In tests here, several grasses were kept under water for periods of 2, 4, 6 and 8 weeks. Reed canary grass and Alta fescue both withstood more than eight weeks of flooding. Brome was completely killed at the end of 6 weeks, and considerably weakened long before that.

But the scientists are not satisfied to say generally that one kind of grass is better than another under alkaline conditions. What they want to know is how much better it is. We want to establish not merely a relative degree of tolerance says Mr. Rayment, but to devise some means of closely defining limits of tolerance.

With the information we are accumulating, we hope eventually to be able to tell a farmer on his land whether tall wheatgrass or something better will meet his needs. Little is yet known about the phenomenon of alkali tolerance, and it is with a view to learning more about this problem that Mr. Rayment is conducting his studies here.

FIVE MEN — AND A DREAM COME TRUE

By 'Vera W. Gillespie

The thirteenth annual meeting of Alberta Poultry Producers Ltd., held in Calgary last month, demonstrated beyond a doubt that "dreams do come true". Five men—Karl Kapler, Jack Rhodes, Si Roppel. A. J. Rix and Louis Normandeau (now succeeded by R. A. Muir)—have seen their early dream of a complete service for poultry people materialize, even to a point beyond their expectation. This has been achieved through the loyal support of 30,000 poultry producers in the province.

Today, the co-operative offers a complete service to poultrymen. It is engaged in buying and marketing eggs, operates hatcheries (chicks, poults and water birds), carries feed and supply lines, processes and sells melange for the baking and food trade.

APPROVAL GIVEN

The meeting passed a special board recommendation to extend activities of APP even further, when approval was given to establish a "broiler factory" which would supply a continuous flow of young meat birds to the co-op's modern eviscerating plant in Edmonton.

In other resolutions, the meeting asked that:

Reasonable payment be made to owners whose livestock or poultry is ordered destroyed, due to infectious disease;

A voluntary deduction from grain sales be worked out to further finance the Canadian Federation of Agriculture.

More restrictions be enacted to control hunters.

A staggering total of business has been handled since the inception of APP, the meeting was told. The co-op has bought over 72 million dozen eggs, over 45 million pounds of poultry, and has sold 12¾ million chicks. At the same time, over $2 million has been returned to member-patrons in the form of dividends.

A. W. Platt, Alberta Farm Union president, was guest speaker at an evening banquet. Dealing with the timely topic, Farm Credit, Mr. Platt felt that a new look should be taken at farm financing. He outlined various aspects of a credit scheme, showing the need, the mechanics and the effect of a workable scheme to finance the farms.

(Project—Alberta Indians).

UNBALANCED DEVELOPMENT

By Jake Schulz, Interprovincial Council Chairman

In the old American folk recitation "The Senator from Arkansas'', one of the dramatic moments begins with the question: "Why did Rome, the old Imperial City which sat in her glory upon her seven hills, collapse into ruin and decay?"

In Canada this question is not out of place at the moment, because a part of the real answer has a direct bearing on the parity price debate that took place on March 12 and 13 in the House of Commons at Ottawa. Last year, the C.C.F. party introduced the subject of parity prices for agricultural products and was supported by the Social Credit and the Conservatives. This year, the Conservative party took up the challenge to persuade the government to guarantee farm prices at a fair relationship level with other prices. They were unanimously supported by the other two opposition parties.

It actually means that three political parties have now come to the conclusion that only a fair income return for farmers would keep Canada's basic industry in balance with other industries and prevent a collapse of our economy which will bring about another depression as so many times before. They know that the decay of Rome quite certainly began when the hardy farmer-citizens, whose valor had made Rome great, ceased to be able to maintain themselves and their families. In hardly more than a generation, over great areas of Italy, the family-sized farms were swept away. They made way for vast, consolidated, slave-operated, absentee-capitalist holdings that were the equivalent in those days of what we now call "industrialized farms".

But apparently the government is determined to maintain the unbalanced development of our economy as proven by the fact that every Liberal member in the house voted against the resolution on parity prices. All around us is evidence of most hectic prosperity, except on the little farms. But when the little farms go, it will be as though the nation's healthy roots in native soil are stricken, and in the end the nation will be stricken too.

According to the Financial Post, March 10, 1955, from January 27 to February 24 industrial materials at wholesale prices index moved up from 246.0 to 249.2. Ten of the thirty items in the series advanced in price, led by linseed oil, beef hides, copper and tin. But steer and hog prices were down. Average price for cattle declined from $28.22 in 1951 to $14.45 in 1954. Average hog prices dropped from $33.33 in the first part of 1954 to $23.17 in the second part of 1955.

From January 26 to February 23 common stock prices (investor's composite index) rose from $245.6 to $252.4. The 76 industrials advanced from 253.6 to

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261.8, the seven banks from 261.1 to 266.8 and the 13 utilities from 204.2 to 205.1. Oils advanced by 6.5% and building materials by 5.8%. Farm income for all of Canada fell another $540,504,000 in 1955 and for the prairie provinces alone $82,891,000. This represents a total decline of farm income for Canada as a whole of approximately 50% and in the prairies about 70% since 1951.

Dividend declarations and payments by Canadian corporations for the first quarter of 1956 stand at $172.3 millions, compared with $160 millions for the same period last year—an increase of 7.7%. In the mining category, payments declared are up 14.7%; the oil group 34% and the financial field 15.9%. But the agriculturel products index dropped from 296.8 in 1951 to 225.05 for 1955 — a drop of 71.8 points. In the same period commodities and services used by the farmers have risen from 230 to 251.2 — an increase of 21.3 points.

Canada's paid workers received $12.8 billions during 1955, which is 7.5% more than in 1954. Labour income for the construction group rose 13.5%; finance and services 9.5%; distributive group 6%; primary industries 3%. But the farmers' share of the national income fell from 11% in 1951 to 5.6% in 1955. More than 50% of Canada's occupied farms have an average income of less than $1200.00.

If this condition persists for very long, it can produce only one result. All the ambitious, able-bodied members of farm families will do what the Roman farmers did. They will give up the life they have been trained to. They will pull up stakes. They will go to seek better opportunities elsewhere.

The warning of history needs to be remembered at the moment when our nation is virtually beginning to be to be divided into two nations. Canada will only achieve its dream—and develop into a stable and broadly-based, well-balanced nation with the character and capacity that distinguishes a great power —when the government calls a halt to the unbalanced development of this country by instituting a system of equality for our basic industry through parity prices.

DISTRICT 14 'SPIEL

A total of 70 rinks from scattered points in south-western Alberta took part in the four-day, F.U.A. District 14 bonspiel, held in Coaldale and Lethbridge March 5-8. Play was held each day from 7 a.m. to 6 p.m. and "the weather really behaved for us" writes bonspiel committee secretary, Miss Molly Coupland. Drawmaster Elmer O'Donnell kept play rolling and not a single complaint was heard this year, according to Miss Coupland.

Top honors in the five events, in order of listing, were distributed among the following rinks:

First event (Heirloom needlecraft) — Floyd Gillies, Picture Butte; John Ontkean, Crystal Lake; Ray Meuller, Readymeade; D. W. Drake, Picture Butte.

Second event (Sturdie Propane) — Jerry Kuryvial, Cranford; Art. Harris, Coaldale; Glen Perry, Readymeade; Mike Paskal, Turin.

Third event (Lethbridge Implement Dealers)— Raymond LaValley, Coaldale; A. McAndrews, Vauxhall; T. C. Noble, Iron Springs; Percy Alexander, Wilson.

Fourth event (Seventy Seven Oil Co.) — H. A. Madill, Foremost; A. H. Beaton, New Dayton; R. Hummel, Milk River; Chas. Orosz, Milk River.

Fifth event (FUA District 14)—Fred Meheden, Crystal Lake; J. E. Jorgenson, Picture Butte; Ken Peterson, Stirling; Roy Kemper, Cranford.

Playing the most games without winning a prize was the Chas. Hougan rink from Foremost. Gross low score was split by G. L. Metzger of New Dayton and Hugh O'Neill of Wilson. Five rinks tied for the largest-end-score, subsequently won by A. H. Beaton.

Prizes all donated by Lethbridge merchants, were presented by George D. Minion, district director.

A buffet supper, held in the Marquis Hotel, Lethbridge, on the second day of the 'spiel, drew a crowd of 325. Concluding the evening was a varied program of entertainment, with artists from Readymeade, Turin, Picture Butte and Raymond contributing.

Bonspiel committee members not formerly mentioned included H. Patching, chairman; Marvin Culler and Cecil Robinson, trophies and prizes; Mr. and Mrs. Vic Thompson and Lind Jensen, banquet; Stan Jones, publicity; F. Meheden, H. Daine, Les Bartlett and L. Peta, rules and refereeing.

ROUND HILL 'SPIEL

Round Hill FUA Local, No. 867, also staged a successful bonspiel in March, according to Paul Kolawsky, press reporter. Play commenced on March 2 and was completed on March 10, with 17 rinks entered in the competition.

Prize winners, in order of placing, were declared as follows:

First event — Tommy Tomezeski (case Husky oil, donated by E. P. Mizera), B. Holowatiuk (bundle forks, donated by North Star Hotel), Palmer Pederson (Eskimo coal, donated by C. Fergstad), Ted Barret (oil change, donated by P. Melnyk).

Second event — C. Stensrud (Burnstad coal, donated by Burnstad Co.), L. Farness (40 lbs. grease, donated by Stan Banack), M. Lindstrand (cheese, donated by NADP), Len Blades (saws, donated by Louie's Cafe).

Round Hill Cafe donated a case of pork and beans for award in the consolation event.

DISTRICT 12

District 12 held its second annual bonspiel in the Civic Ice Centre, Lethbridge, January 30 to Febraury 1. The entry of 26 rinks began curling at 8 o'clock on the morning of the first day and the following evening took time out for a banquet in the Marquis Hotel dining room, writes bonspiel committee secretary, Hans Hasselman.

For the second time, top spot in the first event was copped by the W. Wobick rink, receiving the handsome prize donated by Seventy Seven Oil Co. Ltd. Winners in the second and third event were Mr. McIntyre and Mr. Schuitima, respectively. A total of 44 prizes were awarded in the three-event farmers' 'spiel.

Several suggestions for improving next year's bonspiel were advanced at the curlers' banquet. Mr. Hasselman noted that a number of late entries brought a little disorder in the beginning when draws were being made up. However, volunteer drawmasters B. Wobick and G. Wobick did a masterful job in getting the draw sheets posted on the wall without causing delay.

Mr. Hasselman comments that the project stirred up much favorable interest for the farm union and he expects to see all this year's curlers and many more at the 1957 bonspiel.

FARMERS' HOLIDAY

The annual "Farmers' Holiday" this year has been officially set at Friday, June 8. By government proclamation, all schools in the province will be allowed to close on that date to give rural communities a chance to celebrate this day set aside for farming people.

Now would be a good time for FUA locals to plan activities for the observance. Within a week or two, spring seeding will be in full swing in many sections of the province and it will be difficult, if not impossible to lay plans while men are busy in the field and farm wives tend to gardens, flocks of young chicks, and so on.

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Men and Machines

By W. J. (Bill) Harper

Many factors enter into the cost of farm machinery. Labor, cost of material, factory overhead, freight, and distributive costs are perhaps the major ones. From the farmers' viewpoint, they can be placed under two headings — cost of manufacture and cost of distribution. We must start with these two if we want to understand main factors influencing costs.

To attempt to control manufacturing costs would mean going into the manufacturing business on a large scale. This would involve an outlay of many millions of dollars in a modern factory, which could compete successfully with other companies. It would mean, too, some assurance as to markets. To depend only upon the Western Canadian market would be entirely too risky. Any company which did so well could well find its funds invested in a heavy inventory of machines, which it could not sell due to a poor prairie crop, such as occurred in 1954. The factory might be almost idle for the next year or two, while the retail outlets struggled to force surplus machines on a sluggish market. Or the reverse could be true, and a shortage of machines develop due to unexepctedly good crops and market conditions.

There is no way of avoiding such a situation. Supplies needed for manufacturing must be ordered many months ahead. As much as a year may elapse between the order for supplies and the production of the machine. In the meantime, the crop and marketing situation may change completely.

Most machine companies have sales organizations in many parts of the world, which provides them with a "cushion" against a serious market upset in any one area.

When sales are good and factories are operating at near capacity, the manufacturing of farm machinery is a profitable busines. When sales slump, and factories stand idle, heavy losses can occur. Large financial reserves would be needed to weather such conditions.

It can be seen therefore that to enter the field of production on a large scale, as a means of controlling the price of machinery, is not a simple answer to the problem of high machinery prices. Next month we will take a look at distribution — a much different story.

Classified

FOR SALE

Hatching eggs from extra quality Mammoth Pekin Ducks; $2.25 per setting, two settings for $4.25. Free delivery. Order early. Henry Young, Millet, Alta.

A Contribution to Organization

By Fritz Wuth

As an attempt to improve the organizational set-up of the F.U.A. on the sub-district and local level, District No. 4 has instituted some changes that seem to work out satisfactorily and might be of some interest to other districts.

SUB-DISTRICT

At the beginning of his term, each sub-director is supplied with a "kit", consisting of a folder with pockets which contain necessary material. Besides membership receipt book, FUA constitution, FWUA and Junior handbook, How to Conduct a Meeting (FUA handbook) and a copy of material on the latest district short course, there is included as the main item a scribbler to give the sub-director information and serve as his record book for the current year. It contains a detailed map of the sub-district; a membership record for each local over the past five years, broken down into men, women and juniors; as well as the number of delegates to the district and provincial conventions. In the second part it provides space to list each local's activities during the current year. One side of the page is for entries of membership sign-up per month (as supplied to the sub-directors by the district secretary who, in turn, obtains monthly returns from central office). The other side, on top, give space to list the name and addresses of each president and secretary, along with the day and place set for monthly meetings. The space under this is used by the sub-director for notations on activities of his locals, visits, special meetings, etc., and is the basis for his report at meetings of the district board.

To gain closer contact between the sub-director and his locals, a "Sub-District Board" is formed in each sub-district. Members of this board are presidents and secretaries and the sub-director. They meet at the call of the sub-director or the wish of board members at various intervals during the year to discuss common problems and activities and to exchange information on current issues. In providing this opportunity, many local problems have been straightened out. At the same time, it gives the sub-director a way to become fully informed on what is going on — or not going on — in his locals. In our district the cost of operation for this sub-district board has been very small, the sub-districts having been re-arranged to centre on market towns.

(NOTE: In the foregoing article Mr. Wuth, district four director, has outlined steps taken in his area to strengthen the farm union on the sub-district level. In next month's issue Mr. Wuth will describe the methods they have used to make locals function more smoothly and effectively. Their success may help point the way for many other locals where the same technique can be applied.
—The Editors

Open Forum

Letters for publication from members and subscribers only in The Open Forum must be brief. Pen names may be used if desired, but the pen name of the sender must accompany the letter. **A recent Board of Directors' ruling limits letters to 300 words** and those longer cannot be accepted. Readers are asked to observe this change. The F.U.A. does not endorse or accept any responsibility for opinions expressed under this heading.

Sir:

I'm a "has been" as far as farming is concerned, but I read the papers and I wonder if the hopefuls now farming know why an all in farm organization is a dud as far as the average farmer is concerned.

I don't pretend to be the only farmer or ex-farmer who knows the answer, but so far I have never heard anyone explain why this is the case.

It is a question of politictl economy and can, of course, be explained scientifically. It is like this: The farmers in general are like the working class, kept on a sustainence level. However, the hazards and fortunes of farming being what they are, there are bound to be some comparatively well-off farmers as well as the comparatively poor.

If circumstances became such that the well-off farmers were reduced to the level of the average farmer, the average farmers as well as the poor would be reduced to a level where they would be unable to produce. This the government must prevent. The goose that lays the golden egg must be kept producing. This being the case, we find him conservative, if not reactionary in political outlook. They employ hired labor on which they make a measure of profit and they are forever looking for cheap labor. Cheaper lador means cheaper production and stiffer competition for the farmers who do their own work. Being conservative in outlook, the well-off farmer is a free enterpriser. The old saying, that one man's loss is another man's gain, works in his favor; in a bad year the poor or average farmer has things he has to sell at a sacrifice, livestock or feed, maybe. If he doesn't have the livestock, it may be his land. The well-off fellow gets bargains, so he can afford to wait.

These things all people with long farming experience know. Some may think that if all farmers were equally well off things would be different. However, if such were the case, there is nothing to stop the business interests the farmers have to deal with from regulating prices whereby the welfare of these equally well-off farmers pass over to the business interests. As things are, they can't fleece the well-off farmers without putting agriculture on the rocks.

We have heard about a new rust-resistant barley

that is going to save our farmers millions of dollars. We have been getting new varieties of seed for the last 40 years that I know of. Some of it may have been better than what we had. In some cases when our morale was low we were just kidded along and if the seed or whatever it was yielded better, graded better and sold better, it didn't affect our income any to speak of. It would, of course, be good for agriculture, make it a better paying proposition for the business interests.

A. J. MacDonald.

Sir:—I am aware that among a certain section of our population this letter will be classed as "sedition" and "high treason"; but in the name of common humanity and common sense, I believe that the article written by Mr. Young and published in the February issue of "The Organized Farmer", demands an answer.

May I begin by using Mr. Young's figures. He allows a retail price of 65c per lb. for butter; sets margarine consumption at 125,000,000 lbs. for 1955, and total butter and substitutes for that year at 440,000,000 lbs. Now: allowing a retail price of 40c per lb. for margarine, (which is high), the consumers of butter lost themselves $78,750,000.00.

It may be taken as an axiom that anything which raises the cost of living of the human race, in relation to their income, is bad; and that anything which lowers the cost of living in relation to income is good.

Mr. Young proves quite conclusively, in paragraph three of his article, that butter production, in Canada as a whole, is not economically sound. (We may take as an example of this, the fact that New Zealand farmers can produce butter, ship it across the Pacific Ocean, and sell it in Canada cheaper than we can produce it.)

The basic cause of the disastrous financial position in which the farmers of Canada (and the U.S.A.) find themselves today, lies not in over production, but in the mal-functioning of the world distributive system; and one of the chief contributing factors to that mal-functioning is the system of protective tariff walls set up by various countries to protect the manufacture and production of goods in their own country, which can be produced more economically in other regions.

So we see that, in effect, by urging establishing of a protective wall around the butter industry in Canada, Mr. Young is putting his stamp of approval on the very selfsame pernicious system which has largely contributed to our downfall today. Mr. Young continues to demonstrate his immature thinking by his statement in paragraph 10 concerning the nutritional value of margarine; a statement made in the face of the result of repeated scientific tests, which prove that margarine is fully equal to creamery butter.

I urge, and plead, with the farmers of our nation to reject this shallow, narrow-minded type of class thinking which, if persisted in, will ultimately wreck the present "Farmers' Union" movement in Canada, even as the many other like movements have been wrecked in the past.

There are other lines of production in which the Canadian farmer can compete, fairly and successfully, on the markets of the world. Let us not demand for ourselves legislative protection of a type which, when applied to other interests, has contributed so substantially to our own near economic ruin.

What is listed as an "important resolution", passed by the delegates at the last Wheat Pool Convention, affirmed their belief that "expansion of trade with all countries was in the best interests of the whole world." This is a sound principle; let us live by it.

Maurice E. Brown,
Box 108, Alix, Alta.

The Organized Farmer:

I received the March issue of The Organized Farmer and noticed an error in the dates. The Shaunavon convention was held in 1916 in the fall. In 1919 the farmers organized across the west. I am positive on that date. It was a coincidence that while the farmers were in convention at Swift Current, Sask. in 1919, the 1919 Winnipeg strike went int oaction in Winnipeg. I am positive on that point as the strike was discussed at the convention, held by the farmers. I was at that convention in 1919.

Bill Carson
Turner Valley, Alta.

(Writer Carson refers to a letter in the Open Forum of our last month's issue. — The Editors)

Despite a row of bumper crops in the west, the long-time Canadian average wheat yield is only about 17 bushels per acre.

* * *

A coffee break has been described as "the pause that refleshes."

* * *

The United States accounted for the largest percentage of International Wheat Agreement sales during the 1954-55 season (47.95 percent) and Australia recorded the highest completion percentage (92.6 percent of her cantractual amounts) of the three major exporters under the agreement, Canada included.—D.B.S.

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1. Is It The Right Variety?
There are wide differences in disease resistance, time of mautrity and market quality among varieties. No one variety will fit into all local conditions. Select a variety recommended for your area.

2. Will It Grow?
Good sound seed should have a high germination test. This can be checked either by making a test at home or by sending a sample to the Government Seed Laboratory.

3. Is It Free From Weed Seeds?
Noxious weeds introduced by sowing uncleaned seed can be difficult . . . it is always costly . . . to eradicate from your farm.

4. Is It Free From Other Crop Seeds?
Other crop seeds such as rye or barley in spring wheat lead to substantial discounts when marketed. Don't pay seed price for seed containing foreign kernels, inert matter or cracked seeds.

5. Is It Free From Diseased Kernels?
Smut, Blight, Ergot and other diseases in seed will greatly lower the value of your crop. Disease can be controlled by treatment, but if in doubt, play safe . . . use healthy seed.

6. Is Is Sound and Plump?
Sound seed should be free of damage, should be plump and uniform. Soundness indicates good seed quality and ensures a uniform seeding rate.

If Buying New Seed Use Only Registered or Certified Grades.
Consult Your District Agriculturist About Varieties To Use.

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